

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A method for screening a chemical compound for activity in blocking the chloride channel C1C-7 the treatment, prevention or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject, which method comprises the following steps:

providing a test cell comprising one or more chloride channel[s] C1C-7 of the C1C family;
subjecting the test cell to the action of the channel chemical compound; and
measuring the ability of the compound to block the selected chloride channels C1C7 chloride transport.

10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the screening method identifies compounds having potential activity in treating an osteoclast related bone disease, which is osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, osteopetrosis, or Paget's disease of bone.

12. to 17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A method for screening chemical compounds for potential activity in the treatment, prevention, or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject, which method comprises screening compounds in a test cell so as to select compounds having the ability to block of the compounds to block the chloride channel C1C-7 of the C1C family.

19-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 20 18, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block the chloride channel C1C-7 but not having the ability to block a chloride channel selected from the group consisting of chloride channels C1C-1, C1C-2, C1C-4, C1C-5, C1C-Ka and C1C-Kb.

22. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 18, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block specifically the chloride channel C1C-7.

23. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 18, which method comprises the following steps:

providing a test cell comprising one or more chloride channels of the C1C family;
subjecting the test cell to the action of the chemical compound; and
measuring the ability of the compound to block the one or more chloride channels.

24-26. (canceled).

27. (previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the osteoclast related bone disease is osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, osteopetrosis, or Paget's disease of bone.